

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

CHAPTER: 3
SECTION: 2.3
TITLE: TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR17.903

RELATED REFERENCES: M-1, Part 1, Chapter 25

I. PROCEDURE CODE (S)

HCPCS Codes: A0225, A0380-A0398, A0420-A0431, A0433-A0999

X-codes: lodging-X0180, attendant-X0200; meals-X0190, attendant-X0210;
commercial ticket-X0140, attendant-X8010; POV mileage-X8000; misc travel-X0170

II. POLICY

A. Beneficiaries will be reimbursed at the General Service Administration (GSA) rate on the date of travel for the actual miles traveled.

B. Taxi, shuttle, bus, train, subway, boat, ferry, and other forms of public and/or mass transportation costs to include token and tickets will be reimbursed based on actual expenses. If expenses exceed \$25.00, per one way, receipts are required.

C. For taxis and shuttle, the amount of tip allowed is 15 cents for fares of \$1.00 or less, or 15% of the fare (increased to the next multiple of .05) when it exceeds \$1.00.

D. Airplane. This mode of transportation must be preauthorized and receipts are required. Reimbursement will be based on actual expenses. The following criteria applies:

1. other means of transportation are not available,
2. travel by other means would result in detriment to the beneficiary's condition,
3. it is more economical than other means of transportation,
4. a common carrier is used, and
5. coach accommodations are purchased.

E. Special Mode Vehicles. These vehicles are adapted specifically for persons who are physically challenged. If the trip, per one way, is more than \$25.00

reimbursement must be preauthorized and receipts are required. If the trip, per one way, is less than \$25.00 neither preauthorization nor receipts are required. Reimbursement is made for actual expenses.

F. Ambulance. Preauthorization is not required within the commuting area. Preauthorization is required outside the commuting area (i.e., airplane, boat). A billing statement, receipts, and a trip report are required for reimbursement. Rates should not exceed what is charged to the general public.

G. Tolls. Preauthorization and receipts are not required for reimbursement of actual expenses for toll charges for bridges, roads, etc.

H. Lodging, meals, rental vehicles, and incidental expenses for travel outside of the commuting area.

1. Lodging must be preauthorized and receipts are required. Costs will be reimbursed at actual cost not to exceed the GSA daily rate for the area.

2. Meals and incidental expenses will be reimbursed at the GSA allowable rate. Meals and incidental expense rates are reimbursed at 75% on actual travel days (on the road days) and days actually at the travel site are reimbursed at 100%.

III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Reimbursement for travel may only be considered when there is verification that medical treatment/services were provided (i.e., receipt of claim for medical services or verification by physician on VA Form 10-7959E).

B. Ambulance services are paid to the provider unless documentation is submitted showing the beneficiary paid the provider and requires reimbursement. All other travel claims are paid to the beneficiary.

C. Original receipts are required (see [Chapter 3, Section 1](#), *Claims for Reimbursement*).

IV. EXCLUSIONS

Travel expenses for family or friends traveling to/from a facility while the beneficiary is an inpatient.

END OF POLICY